

Message Text

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54

ACTION EUR-12

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 330

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1559

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

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S/S PLEASE CONSIDER FOR TOSEC REPEAT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SP, EEC

SUBJECT: SPAIN AND THE EC

REFS: (A) MADRID 334, (B) EC BRUSSELS 475, (C) MADRID 356

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO THE LUXEMBOURG EC PERM REP, THE EC'S AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN HAS INFORMED HIM SPAIN WOULD PREFER THAT THE EC COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS ON JANUARY 20 NOT ANNOUNCE THE COMMUNITY'S READINESS TO REOPEN THE SPANISH-EC TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AT THIS TIME. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE JANUARY 20 DISCUSSION OF SPAIN WILL PROBABLY NOT RESULT IN ANY DECISIONS. THE LUXEMBOURG EC PERMREP BELIEVES THAT AFTER THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER AREILZA FINISHES HIS TOUR OF EUROPEAN CAPITALS SPAIN WILL APPROACH THE COMMUNITY AT LEAST INFORMALLY AND ANNOUNCE ITS

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GOAL OF ULTIMATE EC MEMBERSHIP. PERMREP AND COMMISSION

SOURCES FEAR THAT SPAIN MAY BE UNREALISTIC IN ITS ANALYSIS OF THE EC'S PROBABLE REACTION TO AN EARLY SPANISH MEMBERSHIP OVERTURE. THEY BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO FIND A COMPROMISE WHICH WOULD PERMIT THE REOPENING OF THE SUSPENDED TRADE NEGOTIATIONS BY RECASTING THEIR CONTEXT TO INDICATE THEY ARE NOT IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EC'S "GLOBAL" MEDITERRANEAN POLICY BUT RATHER IN A BROADER FRAMEWORK OF A NEW RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE EC AND SPAIN BASED ON HARMONIZATION AND CLOSE TIES. END SUMMARY.

2. LUXEMBOURG AMBASSADOR DONDELINGER, IN HIS EC PRESIDENCY ROLE, BRIEFED MISSION OFFICERS ON EC-SPANISH DEVELOPMENTS. HE NOTED THE COMMUNITY'S CONTINUING EFFORT TO FIND WAYS TO FOSTER THE DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN SPAIN. UNTIL VERY RECENTLY THE COMMUNITY HAD BEEN THINKING ALONG THE LINES OF MAKING AN ANNOUNCEMENT AFTER THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL ON JANUARY 20 TO THE EFFECT THAT DEVELOPMENTS IN SPAIN SINCE FRARJS DEATH HAVE REMOVED THE GROUNDS FOR THE OCTOBER SUSPENSION OF EC-SPANISH TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT THE COMMUNITY WAS NOW PREPARED TO PROCEED WITH THEM.

3. DONDELINGER REPORTED, HOWEVER, THAT ON THE NIGHT OF JANUARY 16 THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR TO THE EC, ULLASTRES CALVO, TOLD HIM THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT PREFERS THAT THE COMMUNITY NOT INDICATE ITS WILLINGNESS TO GO AHEAD WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS AT THIS TIME. ACCORDING TO ULLASTRES CALVO THERE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE NEGOTIATIONS IN INDUSTRIAL CIRCLES IN SPAIN WHO BELIEVE THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL NOT BENEFIT SPANISH INDUSTRY. THEIR CONCERN IS EVEN GREATER NOW BECAUSE OF THE UNEASY LABOR SITUATION.

4. DONDELINGER SAID THIS PUT THE COMMUNITY IN A RATHER UNCOMFORTABLE POSITION OF WANTING TO MAKE A POLITICAL GESTURE TO SPAIN WHICH THE SPANISH DON'T WANT. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES IT IS LIKELY THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS ON THE 20TH WILL SIMPLY HOLD AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE SPANISH QUESTION AND TAKE NO DECISIONS.

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5. DONDELINGER NOTED THAT SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER AREILZA HAD BEGUN HIS TOUR OF EUROPEAN CAPITALS IN THOSE MOST LIKELY TO BE RECEPTIVE TO CLOSER SPANISH EC TIES. DONDELINGER EXPECTS THAT AREILZA WILL RECEIVE A SOMEWHAT COOLER RECEPTION IN THE CAPITALS STILL ON HIS LIST. IN ANY EVENT, DONDELINGER SAYS SPAIN WILL TAKE NO INITIATIVE WITH THE COMMUNITY UNTIL AREILZA'S TOUR

OF CAPITALS IS OVER. AT THAT TIME DONDELINGER EXPECTS THAT SPAIN WILL APPROACH THE COMMUNITY, PERHAPS INFORMALLY, TO INDICATE ITS DESIRE FOR ULTIMATE MEMBERSHIP.

6. DONDELINGER IS CONCERNED ABOUT SPAIN'S APPARENT DESIRE TO MOVE EVEN AS QUICKLY AS THIS ON THE MEMBERSHIP ISSUE AND HOPES THAT IN HIS VISITS TO THE REMAINING SIX CAPITALS AREILZA WILL BE GIVEN A MORE REALISTIC PICTURE OF THE COMMUNITY'S LIKELY RECEPTION TO ANY EARLY OVERTURE REGARDING SPANISH MEMBERSHIP.

7. WE HAVE HEARD THE SAME CONCERNS EXPRESSED IN COMMISSION CIRCLES. EC VICE PRESIDENT SOAMES TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE COMMISSION BELIEVES THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT MAY BE OVER-OPTIMISTIC. SOAMES NOTED THAT FROM THE COMMISSION'S VIEWPOINT DEMOCRACY IN SPAIN WOULD HAVE TO GO A GOOD BIT FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD BEFORE THE COMMUNITY COULD CONSIDER A SPANISH MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND THAT EVEN WHEN DEMOCRACY IS WELL ESTABLISHED ON THE RIGHT PATH IN SPAIN THERE ARE A NUMBER OF OTHER ISSUES WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED IN LOOKING AT A SPANISH MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION.

8. EVEN PRIOR TO THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATION WITH DONDELINGER, SOURCES IN THE COMMISSION SERVICES WERE AWARE OF THE SPANISH RELUCTANCE TO RESUME THE SUSPENDED NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT PUTTING THEM IN A DIFFERENT CONTEXT. THESE SOURCES BELIEVE THAT, PROVIDED THE SPANISH DO NOT INSIST UPON NEGOTIATIONS SOLELY IN THE CONTEXT OF MEMBERSHIP, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO WORK OUT LANGUAGE REPLACING CURRENT LANGUAGE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE ALMOST CONCLUDED AGREEMENT. THIS PREAMBLE CURRENTLY INDICATES THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE BEING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONDUCTED IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EC'S "GLOBAL" MEDITERRANEAN POLICY. COMMISSION SOURCES BELIEVE IT COULD BE REPLACED WITH MORE FORTHCOMING LANGUAGE ABOUT COMMON OBJECTIVES AND EFFORTS TO HARMONIZE SPANISH/EC RELATIONS. WHETHER THIS WOULD BE ENOUGH TO SATISFY SPAIN REMAINS TO BE SEEN. GREENWALD

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